



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 31.12 Thursday, March 20, 2025

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

City council votes to complete purchase of 330 Charles St.

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a 35-minute closed-door session on Monday, the Belleville City Council voted unanimously to have the city manager move forward on the purchase of 330 Charles St. for a new city hall.

The 8,000-square-foot former Post Office building was approved for purchase for \$850,000 on Feb. 6, and 60 days of due-diligence was included in the agreement along with a \$25,000 in-earnest payment.

The follow-up list for Monday's meeting, put together by city manager Jason Smith, said the deadline to close on the purchase is April 15.

At the Feb. 3 meeting, councilwoman Julie Kissel voted against making an offer on the site, later saying she objected to the speed of the decision. She joined in the Feb. 6 council vote to purchase the property.

City manager Jason Smith put the final purchase on the March 3 city council agenda, with information stating the closing could be March 18, but it was removed from the agenda without comment.

City manager Smith said in the March 3 packet information for that agenda item that after approval they will post bid packets on BidNet immediately so that the city can begin the process of selecting contractors and beginning to schedule work.

When Mayor Ken Voigt called for the closed-door session at the beginning of Monday's meeting, he told those present that they would only have to leave the room for about five minutes. The meeting room was crowded because Boy Scouts and their parents were present. The scouts were seeking a merit badge which required attending a council meeting.

Chairs were carried out into the hallway for those who had to wait and the doors were closed. The doors were closed for

(continued on page 3)



Photo special to the *Independent* by Elena Manalp, VBT Communications Dept.

From March 12 to 15, the FIRST Robotics state district competition for 2025 was held at Belleville High School and drew a large crowd. There were 40 teams, including Belleville High School's Bellevillians, and the robots the teams created did a variety of activities to make points. BHS ranked #17 of the 40 in points for this competition. Mentor Mark Laginess clarified the competition. "Belleville finished 17 in the qualifying rounds and was selected to play in the playoff round as part of the third alliance. They played through the winners' bracket of the double-elimination format until the last match when their alliance scored 214 points -- and lost! 214 would have won probably any other match on the day. They then won in the losers' bracket to play a best 2 of 3 rematch with the first alliance, and they lost both matches, finishing second overall."

Sumpter selects new township manager on split 5-2 board vote

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After three special meetings to interview candidates for the open township manager position, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees selected Ken Marten on a 5-2 vote.

This was at the end of the regular meeting agenda on March 11. Voting no were clerk Don LaPorte and trustee Matthew Oddy.

A special 5 p.m. meeting was set before the March 11 regular meeting to interview Marten, since he was out of the country when the other candidates were set for interviews.

The board accommodated Marten, who just returned from a vacation trip, with four nights in China and four nights in Taiwan.

Marten had his initial interview with the board on March 11. Finalists Adam Kline

and Kevin Dunbar had two interviews each. Gregory Elliott of Tecumseh was cut from the list after the March 4 interview and Matthew Best withdrew as a candidate when he was hired elsewhere.

Trustee Oddy conducted the three interview meetings and Marten had been cut from the list because he wasn't available to be interviewed with the rest. At

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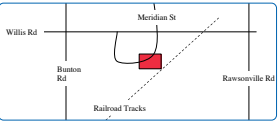
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Belleville planners meet police officer who does ordinance enforcement

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Belleville Police Officer Jeff Gueli met with the Belleville Planning Commission at its regular meeting March 13 to explain what work he is doing in ordinance enforcement.

Officer Gueli said during his shifts he drives around the city on patrol, makes sure no one is doing anything wrong around the high school, and spends about 25% of his time on ordinance enforcement.

He said he is logging his ordinance work and they hope they may get a grant to help.

Officer Gueli said once the police department gets back up to full staff, they may be able to have an officer assigned full time to ordinance enforcement.

The planning commission spent most of the March 13 meeting working on a draft for the new city master plan. The state requires an update of the master plan every five years. Belleville's current master plan was written in 2006 and updated since then.

It is being completely rewritten this year under the direction of Andy Aamodt and Ava Miller of Giffels Webster planning consultants.

Aamodt said that 282 responded to the second online survey on Transportation and Infrastructure for the master plan draft.

He said people told where they live, where they work, and where they go, along with whether they walk, bike, or drive.

He said 65% said they drive alone to work, 7% carpooled, and 24% work at home.

Commissioner Alvis Brigis said he has talked to people who would like to go to Sandy's Marina to use a boat. He said there could be a shuttle from the Iron



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville Police Officer Jeff Gueli, left, who serves as an ordinance enforcement officer for 25% of his work day, appeared before the Belleville Planning Commission at its March 13 meeting to explain to commissioners what his assignment includes. Seen at the table from left are commissioners James O'Keefe, Julie Kissel, and Mark Kowalski. Kissel is vice-chairperson of the commission and also serves on the city council.

Belle Trail. He also told of those who want transportation to Wayne County Community College on Haggerty Road. He said they moved to other areas of the county so they could walk to school.

Aamodt said 64% of those on the survey said no to more EV stations.

City manager Jason Smith said there are orange tarps up in the library parking lot and Village Park where the planned EV chargers are planned. He said it took a long time for the EV stations to finally come and plans started in the summer of 2023.

Commissioner Brigis said there will be a need for EV chargers for electrical boats.

"EV chargers bring people and businesses we want," Brigis said. He said they could be put in the Belleville High School parking lot and raise money for school groups.

Brigis said the Iron Belle Trail will need EV charging stations for one-wheel ehicles.

Aamodt said the item rated most unpopular on the survey was road maintenance, with lake access weak, along with boat access. They want paths along the lake so people can enjoy the lake.

City manager Smith said the city got a \$750,000 grant from the state to improve the Horizon Park dock and passive recreation, with a different design.

"There's a longer goal of connecting to the new bridge," Brigis said.

Smith said the city has applied for a grant to get a boardwalk the length of the park.

Aamodt led discussion on the goals of the present master plan and whether they should be included in the new master plan.

He said 11% of Belleville households are "transit-dependent" and 5% are no-car households. He said particular consideration should be given to the youth and older population, as well as the 22% of the population with disabilities.

SEMOG estimates that 25% of the population of Southeastern Michigan will be over the age of 65 by 2050.

Aamodt asked commissioners to get their phones out and use the QR code he projected on a screen so they could give their answers to a series of questions. He said the responses would be kept and used in preparing the draft of the master plan.

Smith said the city is working to slow traffic down on Main Street and is seeking a grant for safe paths to school as a multi-jurisdictional project.

When gateways to the city were discussed, Brigis said the gateway at the north end works with the new shopping center, but the south end needs work. He said one sign says "Welcome to Belleville, Home of the Strawberry Festival."

He said when leaving Belleville at the north end it says "Welcome to Van Buren Township, Lake Community." He said Van Buren calls itself the lake community on many signs. He said heading east on Huron River Drive there are no visible signs.

When discussing zero traffic deaths, commissioners thanked Officer Gueli and

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City of Belleville

(continued from page 1)

more than half an hour.

After the doors reopened and Councilman Jeremiah Beebe made the motion to have the city manager proceed with the purchase, the unanimous vote proceeded, and then nothing more was said on the subject until the end of the meeting.

Mayor Voigt said he believed this would be a watershed year for Belleville, with the city seriously entering into a road improvement program and having a new city hall.

At the Feb. 6 meeting, Mayor Voigt said they are taking 60 days to make sure it's right. He also said he wanted an estimate on how much it would take to renovate the building for city use.

In other business at Monday's 51-minute meeting, the council:

- Heard the owner of The Hair Station at 151 Main St., say that employees of the Main Street Pups business a few doors down are parking in front of her business all day and her customers can't park there. She said she talked to them and was told they can't tell their employees where to park. She said she went to city hall and talked to a police officer, asking if she could buy the parking spots in front of her business for customer parking. She said she was criticized on social media because an 84-year-old woman had to walk from the parking lot behind The Hair Station to get her hair done. She said the Bariatrics business isn't operating now and the employees could park in front of that business next door. Mayor Voigt said the council had a similar complaint about business parking on Main Street a couple of meetings ago and the administration is looking at whether to put time restrictions on parking;

- Approved the Buddy Poppy sales by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Polish Legion of American Veterans on May 8-10 at Five Points and the Main/High intersection, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., to raise money for their worthy causes;

- Approved the flower sale fund raiser for Boy Scouts of America (Scouting America) Troop 793 selling hanging and potted flowers on the Fourth Street Square from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 10;

- Approved the Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on High Street at 11 a.m., May 26, to honor and remember veterans, with speakers and presentations, including wreath placement;

- Heard Mayor Voigt remind everyone of the Vietnam Veteran ceremony from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, March 21, at Belleville High School. He and councilman Beebe will take part in the event;

- Heard city manager Smith say the water meter installations are 72.44% complete

and they have learned how to have the information pop up if meters haven't been installed at a site when someone comes in to pay a water bill. There are no emails or phone numbers on some accounts. He said the proposed BS&A addition is being dropped because it does not communicate both ways and it was taken off the follow-up list. He also reminded the council he will be gone on Tuesday and Wednesday to a Michigan Municipal League meeting; and

- Heard councilwoman Kissel say she is sorry another light pole was hit in front of Hayward's. Mayor Voigt said that light pole has probably been hit 15 times over the years. He asked if a bollard could be put up in front of it to protect it. In her Department of Public Services report, DPS director Melissa Frierson said police informed her a drunk driver took out the light pole. DPW and Snider Electric teams replaced it. Related sign replacement is scheduled for a later date.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Sunshine Week: Restoring trust with transparency

by Eric Hamp, president
Michigan Press Association

Freedom of the press is important to those who have chosen to be journalists and serve as the peoples' watchdogs in America for almost 250 years.

Many feel that the First Amendment is in peril. Trust in the media has eroded at every level. Continuous allegations of "fake news" continue to permeate social media and "new" media...often targeting legacy media who will not report a certain opinion but rather continue to rely on facts.

In Michigan, this is not helped by the fact that our "Capitol Press Corps" has limited access to information about the legislature and the executive office.

For a decade, proponents of open government in the legislature and the public have pushed to remove the exemption our governor and legislators have from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

For five consecutive legislative sessions, this effort has been shut down. This year, the state senate showed a strong willingness to advance these bills by making them the first and second bills introduced in the session. They then went ahead to pass them out of the senate to the house...where they have once again been stiff-armed.

Newspapers, small and large around the country, have been threatened with lack of access – and worse – for not capitulating to a certain political narrative.

(continued on page 5)

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

March 16-22 is Sunshine Week in Michigan, shining a light on the importance of public records and open government.

We were thus especially pleased to hear a man announce to a group on Monday that he has lost confidence in other news sources, but he has been reading the *Independent* for many years. He said the *Independent* tells it like it is and he can depend on what he reads. It warmed my heart.

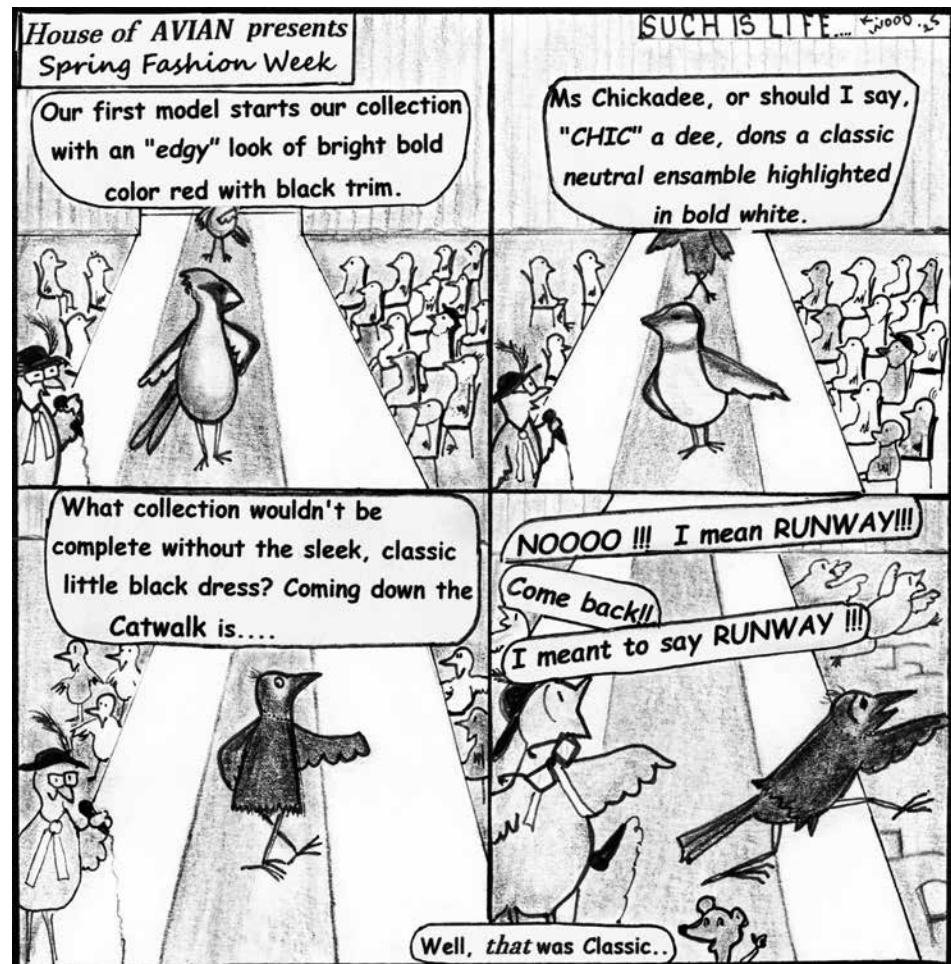
We got a call announcing a demonstration from 5-8 p.m. last Thursday on a pedestrian bridge at Rawsonville and Belleville roads. I told the lady that was confusing because they don't cross. It finally was determined it was a pedestrian bridge over I-94 between Rawsonville and Belleville roads. She was from out of the area. Once the location was settled, I asked her what they were protesting and she said it was the federal government. There was a lot of that around the state that day.

Then, I was informed that channel 2 news was covering a different protest, this one against a skeleton that is hanging in front of a home on Belleville Road on the curve north of the Belleville Bridge. There was a group picture of protestors with signs on social media.

When I watched channel 2 news at 6 p.m. on Friday to see it, the story had a different angle. Some people had complained about the skeleton to Van Buren Township and it was the homeowner who was interviewed on the news about how the township told her to take "Skelly" down and why she keeps the skeleton up.

She said it welcomes people going into Belleville. She said during the BHS football

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



playoffs, the skeleton wore a quarterback's shirt and on other holidays, such as Valentine's Day, graduation and Easter he wears special shirts. Presently, he was wearing a handmade, orange jumpsuit with numbers on his chest. There are signs to "Save Skelly"

One of the neighbors interviewed who supports the skeleton said "Skelly" brings too much joy and "darn our joy."

There are reportedly 1,000 signatures on a social media petition to Save Skelly.

Homeowner Angela Camilleri, who said that Skelly has been up for six years, said she asked the township what ordinance she was breaking and they said they would call her back when they found one.

The TV reporter said he left a message for the township supervisor, but Van Buren Township was closed on Friday. It has a four-day work week.

Keystone Academy principal Jorvanna Drain announced at last week's school board meeting that after spring break, she will be halfway to her family's goal of visiting every state in the union. Virginia and West Virginia are numbers 24 and 25, she said. That's where they are after six years of traveling with two young daughters. She said she picks out interesting things in the states and then arranges for housing. She said they will be staying in a dome in West Virginia.

Mickey Widener said his daughter drove

him home from lunch over the weekend and the trip down Fret Road had their car jarring up and down so much that he said, "my brain shrunk to the size of a tennis ball." He asked me to write something about how bad the roads are now.

Mickey said his brain is recovering, but the back roads are just terrible in Van Buren Township.

He also reports he has seen long lines of wild turkeys to the south of his place on two separate occasions. And, the deer are plentiful, too.

I'm told most computer systems are made in China and that's why the local school board is rushing to buy what it needs now for its aging system. The upcoming 25% tariff by our federal government pushed the school board into holding a special meeting to spend \$319,846.05 out of the 2024-25 general fund, so they don't have to spend \$79,961.52 more than that in the upcoming budget.

This won't be the last time our local lives will be touched by these tariffs. We had a notice from our printers our newsprint cost was going up 25% because of tariffs on Canadian products, but then the tariffs were pulled back, so our on-again, off-again raise in printing costs is up in the air. Not a higher price yet.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper
published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

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Letters

We're going on a trip to support Tim Marsh

To the editor:

A talented Belleville Area artist TIM MARSH has recently moved to Ludington, MI. Tim had been active in the Belleville Council for the Arts (BACA) since its inception in 1992.

Tim's friends at BACA were very sorry and sad to see him move to Ludington. The bright spot is that the Ludington Council for the Arts has recognized Tim as an important artist and is honoring him. The Ludington Art Council is sponsoring a solo exhibit for him in their community art facility commencing May 2.

BACA would like to put together a group from Tim's friends and other interested parties to attend the Ludington opening of Tim's exhibit on May 2.

Our plan is that the group would leave on Friday, May 2, early in the morning (about 9 a.m.) from the Van Buren Township Hall on Tyler Road. We would attend the exhibit, spend the night. Then the next day we would tour Ludington a little in the morning and leave on May 3 to return to Belleville about 2 p.m.

The drive is about 3.5 hours. The expense details are still pending but the costs will be equitably shared for transportation and housing accommodations. Meals are individual and not a shared cost.

If you are interested in being a part of this small tour group, please contact me by cell, text message, or email. My phone number is (734) 516-0025 (cell for phone call or text). My email address is bmiller321main@comcast.net.

Please contact me no later than 6 p.m.

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April 2. I will return the contact with details on or about April 6. Again, the exhibit is Friday, May 2.

In support of Tim Marsh,
Barbara Rogalle Miller
Van Buren Township

It's Double Give on Sat. to help feed our hungry

To the editor:

In January and February of 2025, 429 bags of food were distributed at the Emergency Food Closet at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St. This is 81 more than during the same time period in 2024! The need in our community continues to grow!

This Saturday, March 22, will be the second of two Meijer Simply Give Double Days during the Winter Simply Give Campaign at our local Meijer store located at 9701 Belleville Rd. On this day, if one buys a \$10 Simply Give Card, Meijer will match with \$20 for a total donation of \$30! The cards are located at the end of each checkout lane.

The Emergency Food Closet is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone receives food on his/her first visit. To continue to receive food, one must obtain a referral and be a resident of Van Buren or Sumpter townships or the City of Belleville.

Thank you for your continued support in feeding the hungry in our community!

Marilyn Wood, coordinator
Emergency Food Closet

Editorial

(continued from page 4)

In Michigan, we continue to fight for access to what should be public records from our legislature and governor but both are currently exempt from FOIA. Which leads us to keep asking these elected officials, "What have you got to hide?"

There are things you can do to help strengthen your rights and press freedom. Let your state representative know you want to see transparency in the State Capitol.

Join your community newspaper in celebrating Sunshine Week, March 16-22, a nonpartisan collaboration among groups in the journalism, civic, education, government and private sectors that shines a light on the importance of public records and open government.

Eric Hamp is Publisher & Editor of the Houghton Lake Resorter / Crawford County Avalanche

Musings

By Janet Millard
Independent
Advertising Director



Well finally we are at Third Thursday with extended shopping to 8 p.m. in downtown Belleville. Look for the signs in front of businesses with specials and crafter pop-ups. When the weather gets nicer, hopefully in April, the Fourth Street Square will be included in the pop-ups. It won't be long before the Farmers Market and Classic Car Show starts on the first Monday in June. The town will really be hopping then!

When you see JR's Small Engine Repair ad back in the paper, you know it is time to take a look at your equipment before you need it and find out there is a problem!

Are you thinking about getting your resident fur baby some training? Dogs by Janet will be starting new classes in April, so there's time to get that puppy registered. See her ad in today's paper.

Yost Sand & Gravel is open for the season and their ad has a long list for all your landscaping needs. Free fill from Yost is on the classified page.

There are two ads back in the paper from Love is Zaki and Ripple Wave CPR. These businesses are in the building next to State Farm on Main Street. They offer home health care and CPR and first aid classes.

The annual FIRST Robotics held its competition last weekend and our BHS Bellevillians came in with high scores. Win, lose, or draw BHS is a great host for this event that brings so many different schools to our small town.

I see a lot of people complaining about the trouble they have turning left at the light at Main Street and Liberty/Denton. I stopped doing that years ago and go on to Fifth Street to make a turn. It is a lot less stressful!

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Obituaries

COLTON HAYES WHITT

(February 28, 2025 – February 28, 2025)
Colton Hayes Whitt passed away late Friday, February 28, 2025, at Trinity Health Hospital, Ann Arbor. He is survived by his parents, Joshua and Alisha (Scroi) Whitt and sister Henley Ann Whitt, all of Romulus; grandparents Chris and Angelique Whitt and Russell and Barbara Scroi, great-grandmother Rowena Zimmerman, all of Belleville.

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ANTHONY LEE 'TONY' MIRON

(June 6, 1967 – March 12, 2025)
Age 57, of Temperance, MI. Survived by daughter Alyssa Miron, mother Linda Miron, sister Lisa Gill; loving companion Tonja Foster. Celebration of Life is being planned. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

BARBARA JEAN WITHROW

(July 8, 1935 – March 10, 2025)
Age 89, of Ypsilanti. Survived by husband James; daughters Tammy Carlson of Belleville and Laura Geisinger of Dearborn Hts.; two sons James of Ypsilanti and John of Detroit; 5 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; sister Lisa. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, March 25 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 3 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 26 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 1 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., and workshop at 5 p.m. as needed
- Monday, April 7 – Belleville City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 8 – Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 9 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 10 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

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- **Friday, March 21** – St. Aloysius, 37200 Neville St., Romulus, Lenten Fish Fry, homemade cod and shrimp dinners, 4:30-7 p.m. Baked or fried, \$15; pizza, \$6; kids meals, \$9. Credit and debit cards accepted. Curbside pickup, 313-597-3194.
- **Friday, March 21** – Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam era and the veterans who served is set for 5 p.m. at the Belleville High School Auditorium. All Vietnam-era veterans and the public is invited to attend to honor their service and sacrifice.
- **Friday, March 21** – Lenten Fish Fry at 5 p.m., meat auction at 6:30 p.m. and Trivia at 7:30 p.m. All at Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Open to the public.
- **Friday, March 21** – Legacy Five in live concert at 7 p.m. at Bethany Bible Church, 810 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets available by presale and at the door. (734) 697-7456, www.bethanybiblechurch.com
- **Thursday, March 27** – American Red Cross Blood Drive, noon to 6 p.m., Sumpter Township Community Center gymnasium, 23501 Sumpter Rd. For appointment log on to RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code Sumpter), call the township office at (734) 461-6201, ext. 2226, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- **Friday, March 28** – St. Aloysius, 37200 Neville St., Romulus, Lenten Fish Fry, homemade cod and shrimp dinners, 4:30-7 p.m. Baked or fried, \$15; pizza, \$6; kids meals, \$9. Credit and debit cards accepted. Curbside pickup, 313-597-3194.
- **Friday, March 28** – Lenten Fish Fry at 5 p.m. and Flaunt Love (2-person band) at Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Open to the public.
- **Saturday, March 29** – Dinner and live band at the Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Dinner is from 5 to 7 p.m. Smoked pork chops, macaroni & cheese, salad, bread, dessert. Tickets \$15. Live band: Circus of Soul at 7:30 p.m. Open to the public. Free entry for band.
- **Thursday, April 3** – If you own property on Ford or Belleville Lake, there is a workshop at 6 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library to promote water quality using lake-friendly practices on your property. This informational meeting is free and open to the public, but seating is limited to 50 people. Register at www.hrwc.org/shorelineworkshop
- **Friday, April 4** – St. Aloysius, 37200 Neville St., Romulus, Lenten Fish Fry, homemade cod and shrimp dinners, 4:30-7 p.m. Baked or fried, \$15; pizza, \$6; kids meals, \$9. Credit and debit cards accepted. Curbside pickup, 313-597-3194.

Correction:

**Quilt won't be raffled off
until Nov. 8 at noon**

The Western Wayne County Quilting Guild quilt that is being raffled off was shown on page 9 of the March 13 *Independent*. The drawing will be held at noon on Nov. 8, not the end of March as reported. Tickets are \$1 each.

We regret the error.

Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 1)

the March 6 meeting, the vote to reconsider Marten was 4-3, with those in favor saying their support was based on his high score at the initial scoring.

Trustee Tim Rush said the March 6 meeting was the “toughest meeting I’ve been in since I’ve been here.” He congratulated fellow board members for the way they conducted themselves.

“We did it peacefully,” trustee Oddy agreed.

At the March 11 special meeting, Marten said he was hired by Hometown Newspapers in 1999 and covered local government, gavel to gavel, for the *Milan Times*. “I reported on everything that happened at the meeting,” he said. Then he moved to newspapers in Royal Oak and Ferndale and then became managing editor of a small chain. He said newspapers were going by the wayside and that’s when he decided government might be a career for him.

Marten said he got a master’s degree in public administration and served in Lathrup Village and has been Bingham Farms manager for the last six years. He said Bingham Farms is a small village and he’d like to be in a larger government. He said he applied at Sumpter two years ago when the position was open.

After a surprise board vote to turn down the selected candidate in 2022, deputy clerk Anthony Burdick was chosen for the position and he began July 1, 2022. Burdick is retiring as of March 31.

In other business at the regular March 11 meeting, the board:

- Opened with a prayer by Eddie Marco from River of Life church;
- Approved promoting police sergeant Brian Steffani to lieutenant;
- Approved a proposal from Carlisle & Wortman Associates, Inc. to offer consulting services to the building department;
- Approved renewing the annual Cyber Security agreement with SenCy including the additional \$13,500 Penetration Test Service;
- Approved the new utility billing policy and procedures;
- Approved hiring Ronald Tabor, effective

March 31, as DPW Director at a base salary of \$90,000 per year with standard benefits and pension, as recommended by the interview committee. This stipulates successful completion of background and drug screening and the attorney drafting a standard employment agreement;

- Approved extension of the part-time status of assistant clerk Gabreilla Massel for 60 days, beginning March 23;
- Heard treasurer Bart Patterson pass on a message from resident Mary Ban who said she is thankful for the services of the police and fire departments when her husband Barney had his recent stroke; and
- Heard trustee Rush remind everyone that they are urged to attend the Skywarn Training at 9 a.m., April 5, at the fire hall.

Birthdays

March 14 – Loren Roderick
 March 21 – Melissa Griffin, Donald Brown
 March 24 – Annie Burks, Mary Fitzpatrick
 March 26 – William Otzman
 March 28 – Jazzmin Long-Hooks, Sophie Smolinski
 March 29 – Claire Abrehart

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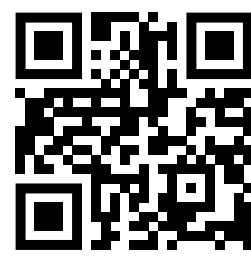
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186 Main Street, Belleville

Belleville Plan

(continued from page 3)

his department for the traffic stops that keep streets safe.

Smith said the city is looking at an elongated speed bump crossing Main Street in front of Egans and a grant is being sought.

"In five years, half of our cars will be self-driving – drop you off and go park," Brigis said.

Aamodt said at the next meeting in April, they will discuss storm water management, infrastructure, and whether to put green requirements on site plans.

He said the planning for 100-year-storms needs a change. He said the 100-year storm today has more water and drains built for the 1970s can't handle it.

Commissioner John Juriga asked if the city has reached out to Belleville High School to get input from students. Smith said he would look into it.

Aamodt said with the newest survey going online, they will find out if the city residents are interested in slowing down the speed and building infrastructure.

In other business at the March 13 meeting, the commission:

- Was informed that commissioner Mike Renaud has resigned;
- Heard Smith report that they are estimating costs for renovations to 330 Charles St., the proposed new city hall;
- Heard Brigis say he is interested in the

city getting hitched to a mobility corridor. He said he went to Los Angeles and saw the Tesla vehicles driving alone. He suggested EV connections be included in the repaving of Liberty Street being planned;

• Heard Juriga say 18 years ago, four guys got together, discussed it, and wrote something – the city master plan now being rewritten. He said he is glad they are doing all this background work on the new plan;

• Heard chairman Jim Courage say by zoom that he will be back for the May meeting. Vice chairman Julie Kissel, who also serves on the city council, has been filling in for him since he was elected; and

• Heard vice-chairman Kissel say she went to the Michigan Municipal League legislative meeting to learn the latest and will attend the next meeting in May. She said a story about Officer Gueli will be in the next city newsletter.

More looking back:

30 years ago, this is what was happening in the tri-community

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

We are celebrating completion of our 30th year of publication by printing stories from our earliest issues to show what was happening in Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter.

In our Feb. 9, 1995 issue, we reported:

• The Community Quilt Block of the Week for Feb. 9, 1995 was about Horizon Park and was created by Sue Jaszcz. Marilyn Locke tells the story of Horizon Park that was created between Belleville Lake and High Street in 1976, the bicentennial year of our country. Earlier, a contest for the greatest beautification of an industrial landscape had begun, promoted by the State of Michigan. Avis White of the Belleville Women's Study Club nominated the Huron Valley Steel plant at French Landing, and it won. She and her husband Don were awarded a trip to Washington, D.C. and the Study Club received a \$2,000 cash award. The cash award was given on the condition it be used on a public improvement project

(continued on page 13)

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VB School Board may purchase new server to avoid 25% tariff

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A special meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education was set for 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, to buy an internet server that was expected to go

up 25% in price the next day because of federal tariffs.

The board was expected to approve the purchase from Sentinel Technologies of 3 HPE servers, 1 storage array, and 2 backup storage repositories for the total amount of \$319,846.05. This includes engineering support for design, implementation and training. Pricing is from the Omni pre-bid contract. Funding will come from the general fund.

In a memo to the board, Sean Garland, IT Administrator, said the current infrastructure has not been supported for 2 years and is beginning to fail. Waiting to purchase runs the risk of approximately 25% increase in project cost over the next couple of weeks.

"The project was accelerated some by the issues that occurred but is really being pulled forward aggressively by the coming tariffs..." "In order to avoid an increased cost on the hardware, we are seeking to purchase this as soon as possible," Garland said in the memo.

The paperwork presented to the board notes the contract delivery date as March 14 and the proposal expires March 20.

More Letters

There's still time to see the quilts at museum

Hello, friends of the museum:

Thank you to everyone who has come to visit our Annual Quilt Show so far. Don't worry if you haven't been able to make it out, there are still three weeks left!

Museum hours for this month have adjusted to our quilt show hours: Tuesday 4-7 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday 12-4 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults.

The Wayne County Quilt Guild is also holding a raffle for a free quilt, which will finish at the end of the year, door prizes for a free sewing machine, a notions basket drawn weekly, and special shows put on hourly on Saturdays. Come out and see the brilliant work of our local artists. The time and care put into these pieces, whether hand-embroidered or machine quilted, wall hangings or king-sized quilts, is truly impressive.

Another special thank you to all the parents, guardians, and kids who came out to the quilt show's Youth Sewing Workshop at the library. We were thrilled to see everyone's excitement for learning.

Mary Utz
Belleville Area Museum Curator
Van Buren Charter Township
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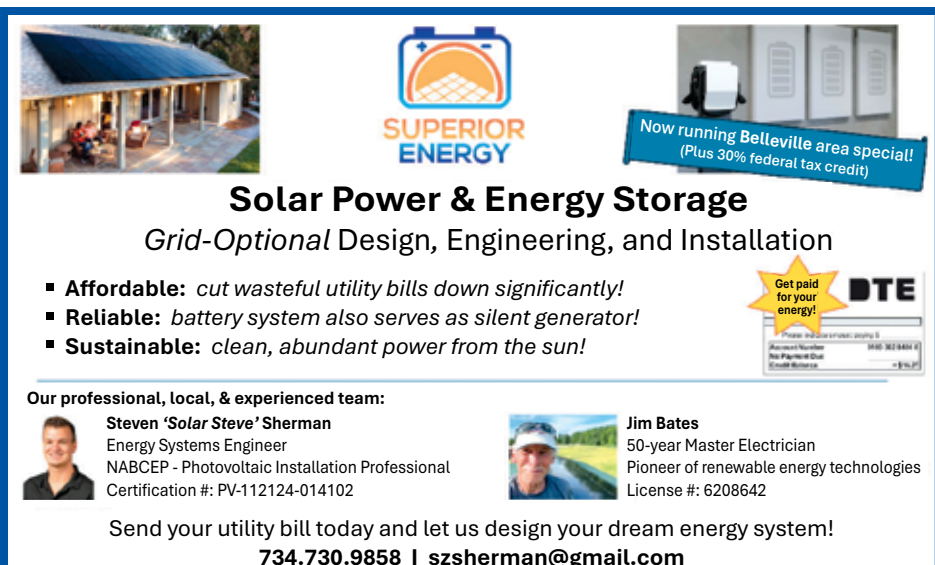
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VBT planners wrestle with new ordinance on Battery Energy Storage

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Planning Commission discussed for an hour at its March 12 meeting a draft ordinance to control Battery Energy Storage Systems.

The state recently passed Public Act 233 on the lithium-ion systems and Tier 1, with aggregate energy capacity or 600 kilowatt hours or less, allows the storage systems with no minimum acreage limits and the township is getting requests for information on where they can be located.

Tier 2 has an aggregate energy capacity greater than 600 kWh and are typically used for large commercial storage facilities.

The township's draft ordinance describes a Battery Energy Storage System as "one or more devices, assembled together, capable of storing energy in order to supply electrical energy at a future time, not to include a stand-alone 12-volt car battery or an electric motor vehicle."

At a recent meeting, the commission directed planning consultant Vidya Krishnan of McKenna Associates to write up an ordinance on Battery Energy Storage Systems as soon as possible. A public hearing was set for March 26.

At its March 12 meeting, the commissioners discussed at length possible changes to the draft ordinance and Krishnan said changes would be made and more could be made the night of the public hearing, if necessary. The ordinance would then be sent on to the township board for approval, if the commission thinks it is

ready.

During the discussion at this meeting and the Feb. 26 meeting, commissioners were advised that the energy storage is in units the size of railroad containers which can be stacked.

At the March 12 meeting, the commissioners agreed they did not want them stacked, so the ordinance would say they could be one container high.

Also, they were told the containers would have a constant 60-decible hum, the sound of a vacuum cleaner at the site border.

Commissioner Jeff Jahr said a constant hum would require noise management and 60 decibels next to a residence is an issue.

Commissioner Bernard Grant asked how flammable the containers are and how toxic are the flames when they catch on fire?

"This is a new thing," commissioner Grant said. "Can we separate it from sensitive areas?"

It was noted Van Buren Township is located between two airports and a plane crash into a battery storage system area could happen.

Ron Akers, director of municipal services, said there is a report on this from the University of Michigan with a whole section on explosion, fire, and hazards and that such fires are contained rather than extinguished.

"At what point does it go from accessory structure to primary use?" asked commissioner Jackson Pahle.

The draft ordinance read Tier 1 battery energy storage systems would be permitted in all zoning districts as accessory uses.

Brittney Williams, planning and zoning coordinator, brought information on how much electricity could be stored in one, 20-foot container.

"I've got to look into the state law," said Krishnan, noting the law is not intended to interfere with private electrical storage.

Commissioner Jahr voiced concern about interfering with small businesses wanting to use energy backup. He said there are continual changes as science evolves

(continued on page 13)

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Court Watching

Sifuentes Noe Uribe

Sifuentes Noe Uribe, 35, of Van Buren Township was charged with home invasion second degree and unlawful driving away of an auto on Feb. 15 in the city of Belleville. He was scheduled for a video arraignment in custody of the Taylor Police Department but Taylor was unable to arraign the defendant after he refused to sign the MIDC form and now wants a Spanish interpreter. It was possible he would be arraigned on Feb. 19. He is now in custody of Wayne County Sheriff.

He was arraigned Feb. 20 with a Spanish interpreter present and scheduled for a probable cause conference on March 5. The defendant also has an ICE hold. Bond is \$10,000/10%. He cannot return to the place of the offense and is to have no contact with the victims.

He was present by video from the Wayne County Jail on March 5 and his probable cause conference was held March 12 with an interpreter and his preliminary exam set for April 16. A notice was sent to the Wayne County Jail for him to be transported for the in-person exam.

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

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Notice is hereby given that on 4/2/25 at 12:00 P.M. thru 4/9/25 at 12:00 P.M. contents of the following storage unit(s) will be sold online at:

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Publish: March 20, 2025; March 27, 2025

FOR SALE

21' BAYLINER. GPS, power steering, engine runs great. \$1,200 OBO. (734) 325-5352 4/03

FIVE PLOTS, HILLSIDE CEMETERY. Call Steve (734) 502-4201 3/27

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2020 CRUSADER 5TH WHEEL RV. 3 Slide outs with toppers, suspension upgrades. Used 3 times. \$27,000 OBO. (734) 309-5732 Tony 3/20

05 HARLEY DAVIDSON SOFTAIL. 12,200 miles, with jacket, helmet & cover. \$7,500 OBO. (734) 309-5732 Tony 3/20

WESTERN SNOWPLOW- 7 ½'. \$500 OBO. (734) 417-3233 4/03

FOOD GRADE BARRELS Plastic & metal. Inventory & pictures at www.mattsbarrels.com, call or text (734) 474-5981. Located in Willis. 5/01

FENCE BOARDS 2 x 6 and 2 x 8, reasonable. (734) 461-1414 06/27

YORKIE-PUGS, YORKIES, TEDDY BEARS, and other pups. \$499 & up. Frisky & vet checked. Ypsilanti. View puppies at petcitypets.com. (734) 487-0800 3/27

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FREE FILL. Delivery available. (734) 697-1183. Yost Sand & Gravel. Belleville. TFN

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

– Ronald Reagan

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MAKE A HOUSE A HOME LLC. Residential/commercial cleaning. 16 years experience. Emily, (734) 353-2198 3/27

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LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE. No job too small. Interior/exterior painting, wallpaper, plumbing, powerwashing & carpentry. (618) 267-7774 10/02

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CAREGIVER NEEDED. Experience necessary. Monday evenings, 5pm-10pm. (734) 239-1035 3/27

COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITION in Canton. Flexible hours & 7 days/week. Mon-Thurs. 9pm-12. Fri-Sun. 6pm-9pm. Offers competitive pay & a pleasant work environment. (734) 673-2364 or rdunn08@yahoo.com 3/20

PART TIME BOOKKEEPER for e-commerce (on-line) store. Experience a must. (989) 217-1685 03/20

WANTED

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(517) 605-6388

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WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

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1989 MUSTANG 5.0 CONVERTIBLE. 70,000 miles, new glass top, automatic, power windows, new battery, and radiator. \$13,000 OBO (734) 325-5352 4/03

2016 MALIBU LTD. Well kept, one owner. 106,000 miles with 1.5" hitch, spare tire, remote start. Call or text (734) 664-2155. \$10,000 OBO 04/03

2010 SUBARU FORESTER WAGON. AWD, full power, air, clean. 151,000 actual miles. Private owner. \$5,150 OBO. (734) 695-0819 03/20

1991 BUICK REGAL CUSTOM COUP. Rust free, 49,000 actual miles, female driver, private owner. \$6,500 OBO. (734) 695-0819 3/20

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VBT Plan

(continued from page 11)

and more energy can be stored in smaller spaces.

“It depends on the number of containers, not the size,” Jahr said.

Akers said the U of M report calls them “onsite” and “offsite” locations.

Krishnan said she looked at what other communities were putting together to meet challenges of the new legislation and she will go back and research concerns of the

commission.

In other business at the March 12 meeting, the commission:

- Approved the final site plan for Costco East cold storage addition at 5860 Belleville Rd. The project is to provide more storage and no more trucks will be going in and out. Krishnan said the company is educating the truck drivers with flyers and other materials not to use Belleville Road south of Ecorse Road to keep truck traffic out of the township’s business area. Costco is working with Wayne County on additional signage on truck traffic;

- Approved temporary land use for Phantom Fireworks tents from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., June 23 to July 5 at both the Lakewood Shopping Plaza parking lot at 2095 Rawsonville Rd. and Menards parking lot at 10010 Belleville Rd.;

- Was informed by Ron Aker, director of municipal services, that the township has stopped broadcasting the planning commission meetings by zoom because few used that to participate and if the commission wants to be put back on, to let him know. He said the commission meetings can be watched on YouTube;

- Heard director Akers announce that at the next meeting on March 26, besides the public hearing on the Battery Energy Storage Systems ordinance, there will be two public hearings on zoning text amendments, and action on the Tractor Supply project; and

- Was informed by Akers that Chick Fil-A had tried to do its project, planned for the outlot in front of Menards, in pieces and

was told by the township it would be more efficient to have all its plans in one packet. Also, he said the Jiffy Lube project for the Meijer’s outlot that had been approved and not built, will be coming back to the planning commission shortly.

Looking back

(continued from page 9)

and the project chosen was the wasteland which was grown up with weeds and brush and is now known as Horizon Park.

In our Feb. 16, 1995 issue were the following stories:

- After a four-hour meeting the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education decided to continue discussion on the proposed \$51.35 million bond issue to build a new high school. The board planned to perhaps make a decision at its Feb. 27 meeting on whether or when to bring it to voters. Plans

(continued on page 15)

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 3, 2025 - 6:30 pm

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Beebe	Present
Council Member Kissel	Present
Council Member Priest	Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Bates	Absent – Excused
Mayor Voigt	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS & CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

a. Presentations

i. None.

b. Citizen Comments

i. Stephanie Richards, Community Liaison – Wayne County Sheriff’s Office

1. Stephanie introduced herself to the Council, noting that she is available for contact if the city needs anything.

ii. Leroy Paige

1. Invited everyone to a Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Ceremony on March 21st, from 5 to 7 pm, at the Belleville High School Auditorium.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Beebe to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda groups routine meeting discussion points into a single agenda

item. In so doing, the grouped items can be approved in one action, rather than through the filing of multiple motions.

a. Approval of Minutes

i. February 18, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes

b. Communications

c. Council Follow Up List

d. DPS Report

e. Special Events

MOTION: Motion by Priest, supported by Kissel to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. None.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

a. None.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION

a. Ritter GIS BS&A Utility Billing Integration to City Works Quote

i. Council instructed the City Manager to table this item until more information can be obtained.

b. Budget Timeline and Departmental Assignments

i. Council discussed which Members would work with each department on their budget plans.

c. Concrete Saw Purchase

i. Council instructed the City Manager to table this item until more information can be obtained.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

a. Accounts Payable

b. Departmental Expenditures

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to approve Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures in excess of \$2,500, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Voigt Aye

Council Member Kissel Aye

Council Member Priest Aye

Council Member Beebe Aye

Motion Carried.

10. ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

a. The city received \$58,228.66 in marijuana tax payments.

b. Looked in to having an energy assessment at 330 Charles St., but noted that DTE would not be able to conduct the assessment until the building is officially owned by the city.

c. A new concrete mixer has been ordered for the Department of Public Services.

d. 66.5% of water meters in the city have been replaced thus far. Letters will be sent out shortly to those who have not yet scheduled their replacement appointment.

e. The renewal of the city’s insurance through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association (MMRMA) is currently underway.

f. Lexipol is currently working on completing the Safe Streets for All grant application.

11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

a. **Council Member Priest**

i. No comment.

b. **Council Member Kissel**

i. Reminder that the Planning Commission meeting is next Thursday.

ii. The transportation and infrastructure and the sustainability surveys are currently open.

c. **Council Member Beebe**

i. Encouraged everyone to attend the Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Ceremony.

ii. Kudos to City Manager Smith on the Council Follow Up List.

iii. The budget planning schedule is great.

12. MAYOR’S COMMENTS

a. Thanked the Department of Public Services for quickly repairing potholes throughout the city.

b. Attended the Belleville High School Band’s spaghetti dinner, which was a nice event.

c. Pleased that the city’s first newsletter was sent out.

d. Looking forward to the Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Ceremony.

e. Governor Whitmer is attempting to obtain funding for local roads through the budget.

f. Attended the grand opening of Blades and Fades, and the business looks great.

g. The DDA voted to join America in Bloom, a program that will send consultants out to evaluate the city and provide beautification suggestions.

13. CITIZENS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEM

a. Public Safety Director Faull

i. The Police Department’s speed radar trailer is ready and hopes to have it programmed within the next couple of weeks.

ii. Currently working on the paperwork for the consultants who will evaluate the Fire Department.

14. ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

a. None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by Kissel, supported by Priest to adjourn at 7:15 PM.

No objections were noted.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by

Briana Hootman

City Clerk/Treasurer

Published: March 20, 2025

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

SEEKING DEMOLITION BIDS

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT

Seeking Demolition Bids. The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for the **demolition, removal, and disposal of all structures located at 14108 Haggerty Road (Parcel 83-098-99-0025-701)**. Bid forms and demolition work specifications are available at the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday or on the Township website at www.vanburen-mi.org. Bids shall be submitted to the Clerk’s Office by **11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025** and will be publicly opened immediately following the closing of the bid. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and reserves the right not to award a contract. Van Buren Township is an equal opportunity employer. **The project will be funded with Township general funds.**

Posted and Published: March 20, 2025

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

SEEKING DEMOLITION BIDS

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT

Seeking Demolition Bids. The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for the **demolition, removal, and disposal of all structures and appurtenances, including the principal dwelling, located at 44817 Ecorse Service Road (Parcel 83-038-99-0014-000)**. Bid forms and demolition work specifications are available at the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday or on the Township website at www.vanburen-mi.org. Bids shall be submitted to the Clerk’s Office by **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025** and will be publicly opened immediately following the closing of the bid. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and reserves the right not to award a contract. Van Buren Township is an equal opportunity employer. The project will be funded by Township general funds and an existing bond.

Posted and Published: March 20, 2025

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 323 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week including the following.

Sunday, March 9:

0009 – suicidal person, Cobblestone Ct.
0320 – assist fire dept. Dewitt Rd.
0354 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.
0643 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Haggerty Rd.
0637 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
1029 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1309 – warrant arrest, S. Highlander Way
1311 – intrusion alarm, McBride Ave.
1437 – fraud, Sylvia Dr.
1607 – civil matter, Alden Ave.
1549 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1722 – threat, Edwards Rd.
1845 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1830 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
2222 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Farm Rd.

Monday, March 10:

0105 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Daniel Dr.
0235 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Parkwood Dr.
0730 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd.
1107 – road hazard, Van Born/Haggerty
1210 – prison transport, 34th District Court
1208 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Woodbury Dr.
1347 – welfare check, Barnwell Dr.
1352 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1415 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
1458 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1538 – intrusion alarm, Winding Pond Dr.
1708 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1859 – assist citizen, Quirk Rd./Ayres Ave.
1937 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1956 – disorderly, Michigan Ave.
2046 – juvenile complaint, Assembly St.
2109 – welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2113 – welfare check, Hannan Rd./Van Born Rd.
2126 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
2212 – noise complaint, Rose Blvd.
2222 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
2232 – 911 welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.

Tuesday, March 11:

0105 – 911 welfare check, Sadie Ln.
0246 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
0305 – assist fire dept., North Shore Dr.
0417 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
0521 – 911 welfare check, Ecorse Rd.
0631 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
xxxx – personal injury accident. S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
0808 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0813 – property damage accident, Ecorse I-275 ramp S./S. I-275
0921 – threat, Belleville Rd.
0939 – misc. complaint, Sunrise Ln.
1027 – harassment call, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1211 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Lake Crest Dr.
1322 – road hazard, Rawsonville Rd./W. Huron River Dr.
1331 – intrusion alarm, S. Cumberland Dr.
1400 – dumping complaint, Haggerty Rd.
1349 – animal complaint, DNR boat launch / Rawsonville Rd.
1424 – missing person, Quirk Rd.
1459 – misc. complaint, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
1637 – sexual assault, Belleville Rd.
1745 – PPO violation, Meadows Cir.
1757 – welfare check, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1828 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1835 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Quirk Rd.
2000 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2041 – property damage accident, Beck Rd./Tyler
2104 – assist fire dept., Patriot Ln./Landmark
2247 – missing person, Country Ln.
2356 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr./Hoeft Rd.
2357 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.

Wednesday, March 12:

0023 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0050 – vehicle lockout, Belleville Rd.
0141 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0231 – 911 welfare check, Landmark
0254 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Kirkridge Park Dr.
0436 – road hazard, N. I-94 Service Dr./Independence Ln.
0840 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1100 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – fraud, Westlake Cir.
1145 – welfare check, McBride Ave.
xxxx – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1037 – threat, Maurice Dr.
1301 – overdose, Lake Point Blvd.
1405 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1430 – intrusion alarm, Hardwood Dr.
1443 – assist fire dept., Haggerty Rd.
1444 – parking complaint, Colonial Rd.
1455 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Brookside Dr.
1637 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1850 – 911 welfare check, Parkwood Dr.
2258 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Morton Taylor Rd. / Ladonna Ln.
2304 – property damage accident, Quirk Rd.
2333 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.

Thursday, March 13:
0133 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0327 – assist fire dept., Ironwood Dr.
0500 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lighthouse Dr.
0606 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Sadie Ln.
0741 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0808 – animal complaint, Western St.
0844 – harassment call, Lighthouse Dr.
xxxx – private property impound, W. Huron River
1103 – assist other dept., Winchester St.
1220 – family trouble, S. Bellridge Dr.
1313 – fraud, Country Walk Blvd.
1511 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.
1559 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville
1617 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1654 – intrusion alarm, Peninsular Dr.
1717 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
xxxx – family trouble, Lauren Ct.
1901 – mental subject, Ironwood Dr.
1909 – parking complaint, Van Buren St.
1944 – welfare check, Jackson St.
2005 – domestic, Western St.
2008 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Belleville Rd.
2046 – breaking & entering, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2106 – 911 welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2108 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
2115 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2131 – domestic, Beckley Rd.
2137 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2208 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Water's Edge Ln.

Friday, March 14:

0012 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0134 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0204 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Lake Villa Dr.
0739 – civil matter, Belle Pointe Estates
0756 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
0842 – animal complaint, Hoeft Rd.
1004 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Frederick Ct.
1049 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Frederick Ct.
1132 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
1121 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Frederick Ct.
1143 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Frederick Ct.
xxxx – intrusion alarm, Hannan Rd.
1355 – misc. complaint, Rawsonville Elementary
1356 – misc. complaint, Rawsonville Elementary
1357 – misc. complaint, Edgemont Elementary
1406 – private property/property damage accident, Samuel Barton Dr.
1447 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Park Estates Dr.
1534 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martinsville Rd./E. Huron River Dr.
1617 – family trouble, Holly Ln.

1651 – noise complaint, Rose Blvd.
1647 – 911 welfare check, Rawsonville Rd.
1833 – welfare check, McBride Ave.
2231 – juvenile complaint, Fairfield Dr.
2309 – noise complaint, Quirk Rd./Ayres Ave.
2327 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. I-94 Service Dr./Haggerty Rd.
Saturday, March 15:
0204 – malicious destruction of property, Martz
0440 – malicious destruction of property, Birch Dr.
0504 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Wildbrook Dr./Savage Rd.
0707 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Wildbrook Dr./Savage Rd.
1048 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1126 – larceny from auto, N. Cumberland Dr.
xxxx – animal complaint, Ayres Ave.
1315 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1345 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, S. Woodbury Dr.
1337 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
1415 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1424 – road hazard, Elwell Rd./Bemis Rd.
1448 – road hazard, Michigan Ave.
1640 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1716 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave.
1808 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1831 – intrusion alarm, Ricardo Dr.
1844 – road hazard, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1955 – 911 welfare check, S. Adams/E. Adams
2201 – assist other dept., Executive Dr.
2212 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Martz Rd.
2221 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
2333 – animal complaint, Quirk Rd./McBride Ave.
Also, on this log are 153 traffic stops, 18 of which are on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 9:

1553 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.

Monday, March 10:

0955 – harassment call, Sumpter Rd.
1715 – property damage accident, Main St.
1941 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Loza Ln.

Tuesday, March 11:

0845 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Potter Dr.
0913 – ordinance violation – all MICR codes, N. Edgemont Ave.
1325 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, N. Liberty St.
1504 – ordinance violation – all 7300 MICR codes, Greylock St.
1541 – malicious destruction of property, Sumpter Rd. / Owen St.
1944 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.

Wednesday, March 12:

0904 – misc. complaint, Robbe St./Clarence St.
1246 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Carmell St.
1306 – 911 welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1440 – property damage accident, Owen St.
1715 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Fourth St.
2109 – assist other dept., Fourth St.

Thursday, March 13:

0327 – civil matter, Loza Ln.
0545 – vehicle lockout, W. Columbia Ave.
0637 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Owen St.
0827 – domestic, N. Edgemont Ave.
1108 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1212 – welfare check, Belle Villa Blvd.
1231 – civil matter, Brain St.
1648 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Third St.
1756 – assist other dept., Harbour Pointe Dr.
2348 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
Friday, March 14:
0026 – motorist assist, Sumpter/Hull
xxxx – juvenile complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
xxxx – misc. complaint, Edgemont Elementary
2240 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, W. Thornhill Ct.
2348 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, March 15:

0600 – property damage accident, Carmell St.
0728 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Sumpter Rd.
0915 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Estrada
xxxx – 911 welfare check, Anaheim St.
1123 – property damage accident, Carmell St.
1250 – vehicle lockout, Main St.
1358 – property damage accident, Main St.
1539 – suspicious person/vehicle/circumstance, Harbour Pointe Dr.
There are 106 reports on this week's log and 67 of these are traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 9:

0151 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willis Rd. / Elwell Rd.
1157 – alarm, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1440 – assault, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1447 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1511 – alarm, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1716 – shots fired, 25000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1947 – neighbor dispute, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.
1949 – death investigation, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2050 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
2100 – 911 hangup, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
2132 – 911 hangup, Rustic Ln.
2348 – 911 hangup, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.

Monday, March 10:

0003 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0030 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1019 – property damage accident, Bemis/Sumpter
1048 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
1240 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1424 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.
1458 – fraud complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1633 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1639 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1802 – welfare check, Wayside Dr.
1809 – ORV complaint, Arkona Rd./Martinsville
2127 – 911 hangup, Harris Rd./Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, March 11:

0051 – suspicious person, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
0513 – suspicious person, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
0717 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1119 – noise complaint, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1404 – civil matter, Montana St.
1408 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1459 – neighbor dispute, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1510 – citizen assist, Rustic Ln.
1616 – juvenile matter, Rustic Ln.
1627 – alarm, Hampshire Dr.
1905 – ORV complaint 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1905 – family trouble, First St.
1921 – 911 hangup, Alaska St.
2222 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.
2333 – civil matter, Alaska St.
2356 – suspicious person, New Mexico St.
2356 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

Wednesday, March 12:

0006 – civil matter, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.
0500 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
0512 – civil matter, Montana St.
1419 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1420 – family trouble, First St.
1532 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.
1610 – 911 hangup, Colorado St.
1916 – assist other agency, out of township
1940 – assist other agency, out of township
2122 – alarm, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2223 – noise complaint, Rustic Ln.
2233 – welfare check, 47000 bl. Willow Rd.

Thursday, March 13:

0843 – assist other agency, out of township
1013 – property damage accident, Willis Rd. / California St.
1030 – assist other agency, out of township
1125 – 911 hangup, 27000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1139 – alarm, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1316 – assist other agency, out of township
1344 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1527 – assist other agency, out of township
1552 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Bemis Rd.
1603 – 911 hangup, Mulberry Dr.
1659 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1710 – family trouble, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1828 – citizen assist, Oakville Waltz/Haggerty
(Continued on page 15)

ORPHAN OF THE WEEK ZIGGY



MEET ZIGGY, A HANDSOME GENTLEMAN WITH A HEART OF GOLD!

This sweet soul is looking for a loving home where he can relax, enjoy some quality yard time, and go on slow, leisurely walks. Ziggy is an excellent walker when he's wearing his harness, and he loves meeting new people-he's a huge snuggle bug who craves affection from everyone he meets.

Ziggy's ideal home would include a comfy couch for napping and people who can spend lots of time with him, as he does experience some anxiety when left alone. He'd be a perfect fit for a home with older, respectful children and no other dogs, as he prefers to be the only pet. Ziggy was surrendered by his previous owner due to some tough times, and now he's hoping for a fresh start with a family who will love him unconditionally.

Ziggy is fully potty trained and knows basic commands like "sit" and "paw." If you're looking for a loving companion who will fill your home with warmth and cuddles, Ziggy could be the perfect match for you!

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Animals Rescue**
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Looking back

(continued from page 13)

for costly computers has grown the total bond.

• Wayne County Commissioner Bruce Patterson announced plans to widen and straighten out Belleville Road, while figuring out how big a curve to put in the now-straight Ecorse Road. The widening of Belleville Road is from the North I-94 Service Drive to Tyler Road. The federal Transportation Economic Development program is picking up 80% of the cost with the county funding the remaining \$32,000. The VBT DDA is acquiring and purchasing the right of way. The project is aimed at

easing traffic congestion on Belleville Road and reducing the jog just north of McDonald's. Commissioner Patterson said the \$3.6 million project on Ecorse Road is to realign it west of Belleville Road to make way for a runway extension at Willow Run Airport. It will put a curve in Ecorse Road from Beck north to Van Born Road, but not past the railroad there. The Willow Run International Tradeport project hinges on lengthening of the runway.

• The Independent announced it would sponsor a Toastmasters Club to help people speak up at meetings. "There are many people in our community who have good ideas, but are afraid of their own voices," said attorney Barbara Rogalle Miller, who is chairperson of the project.

• Tuskegee Airmen were featured guests at a Black History Month Celebration at the PNA Hall in Sumpter Township, sponsored by the Sumpter Progressive Civic League. Airmen present were Cornelius Davis, Richard D. Macon, and John Roundtree. Lt. Col. Lawrence Millben, base commander at Selfridge Air National Guard Base and honorary member of the Tuskegee Airmen, told of being the first black member of the Michigan Air National Guard. A group of nine children from Park Memorial A.M.E. Church in Romulus gave a dramatic reading before Macon, who was a pilot, told stories of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II. Presiding over activities at the PNA Hall was Crystal Harris, president of the Progressive Civic League, who introduced her daughter Captain Charlene Harris-Shepherd, who was a 14-year member of the Michigan Air National Guard.

• We published a picture of 34th District Court Judge William Szlinis helping new judge Tina Brooks Green into her black robe at an investiture ceremony at Romulus City Hall. Judge Szlinis said once the robe is on, the judge no longer can hold personal biases and must really listen to the individuals before the court. During the ceremony Judge Green's husband, Ernie L. Brooks, spoke and court officers Alan Hindman, Neil Jones, and Gregory Milatz presented her with a special, engraved gavel.

We will publish more history from 30 years ago as space allows.

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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 14)

2054 – civil matter, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.
2059 – assist other agency, Bemis/Savage
2202 – citizen assist, Sumpter Rd./Judd Rd.

Friday, March 14:

0018 – suspicious person, Montana St.
0822 – family trouble, Timberlane Dr.
1005 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1010 – citizen assist, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.
1124 – welfare check, Timberlane Dr.
1234 – fire dept. assist, Kansas St.
1453 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1528 – open burning complaint, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
1639 – family trouble, First St.
1654 – suspicious circumstance, Mulberry Dr.
1703 – animal complaint, Hickory Dr.
1707 – family trouble, Oregon St.
1950 – animal complaint, 17000 bl. Martha's Dr.
1950 – welfare check, 41000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2019 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2044 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.
2204 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

Saturday, March 15:

0357 – assist other agency, Rustic Ln.
0807 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
1359 – traffic complaint/hazard, Willis Rd./Elwell
1420 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1450 – follow-up investigation, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1551 – traffic complaint/hazard, 25000 bl. Elwell
1618 – civil matter, First St.
1725 – noise complaint, Bohn Rd./Dunn Rd.
1756 – ORV complaint, Martinsville Rd./Arkona
1802 – property damage report, 50000 bl. Arkona
1839 – traffic complaint/hazard, Karr Rd./Willow
1902 – traffic complaint/hazard, Wear/Rawsonville
1911 – fire dept. assist, 12000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1913 – suspicious circumstance, Rawsonville Rd./Willis Rd.
2103 – welfare check, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.

Also on this week's log are 200 patrol checks, 124 traffic stops, and 13 misc. details.



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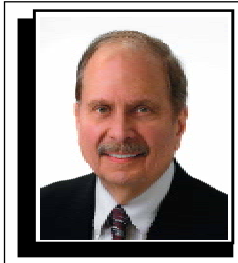
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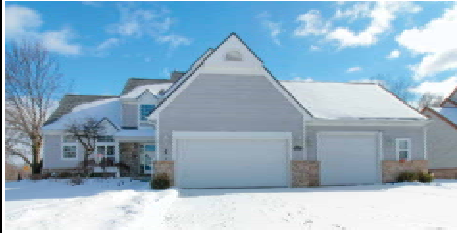
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WILLIS R **SOLD ER \$60,000**
WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE 1.64AC \$65,000
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